

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**v.**

**GERALD MERCADO**

**6:23-PO-00210-HBK**

CAED (Fresno)- Misd. 4 (Rev. 1/2019)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
FRESNO CENTRAL VIOLATIONS BUREAU CALENDAR**

**COURT POLICY REGARDING  
CONTINUANCES OF COURT DATES BY PRO SE DEFENDANTS  
REVISED OCTOBER 15, 2013**

- 1) The Court may grant one request for a continuance of a court date by a pro se defendant. The decision to grant a continuance is based upon the nature of the case and other factors. The Deputy Clerk will inform the United States Attorney's office of the continuance, and will mail the pro se defendant a copy of the Notice of Continued Hearing and policy.
- 2) To obtain a second continuance of a court date, a pro se defendant must submit his or her request to the court in writing, and must also send a copy of the request to the United States Attorney, c/o Misdemeanor Unit, 2500 Tulare Street, 4th Floor - Ste. 4401, Fresno, CA 93721. The request must inform the court that this is a second time the pro se litigant has sought a continuance of his or her court date, and must provide a statement of good cause for the continuance. The request must be received by the court no later than one week before the scheduled court date. The court will not act on the request for three days, giving the United States Attorney an opportunity to object. After the three (3) day objection period, the Judge will consider the written request and any objection. The Deputy Clerk will then inform the pro se defendant and the United States Attorney of the Court's decision. No more than two (2) continuances will be granted absent extraordinary circumstances.
- 3) Any pro se defendant seeking a third or further continuance must submit his or her request to the court in writing, and also serve the United States Attorney a copy of the request. The pro se defendant must inform the court how many continuances he or she has previously been granted, and must also provide an explanation of the extraordinary circumstances justifying a third or further continuance. Such a request must be received by the court no later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled court date. The court will not act on the request for one (1) week, giving the United States Attorney an opportunity to object. After the one (1) week objection period, the Judge will consider the written request and any objection. The Deputy Clerk will then inform the pro se defendant and the United States Attorney of the Judge's decision.

Even if the request for continuance is not opposed or even agreed to by the United States Attorney, the Court may still deny the request.